



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
810 VERMONT AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20420

October 30, 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is writing to ask tribal governments, interested in participating in a nationwide outreach campaign, to reply to this letter within 30 days receipt. The focus of the outreach campaign will be identifying and assisting Veterans across Indian Country with presumptive disabilities and Veterans who may have non-compensable disabilities (VA pension claims). Reaching these Veterans could have a direct, tangible impact on the lives of thousands of previously unreached Veterans and their spouses.

Presumptive Conditions and VA Pension Benefits are defined as:

- A. Veterans with **presumptive disabilities**. Veterans may not realize that VA presumes that certain medical conditions are related to military service, although these conditions may first appear after discharge from the military. These conditions may qualify for compensation payments. See the enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>. In addition, surviving spouses may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), when Veterans die as a result of these presumptive disabilities. See the enclosed fact sheet or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf> for additional DIC eligibility.

VA can pay special monthly compensation additional allowances, to a Veteran who, as a result of military service, incurred the loss or loss of use of specific organs or extremities, and to a Veteran or Survivors who need regular assistance with activities of daily living, or when they are confined to their immediate premises because of disabilities i.e., an Aid and Attendance or Housebound allowance. See the enclosed fact sheets for more information, or visit <http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/smc.pdf>

Veterans who may be eligible to receive **VA pension benefits**. VA pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements. See the

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enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit


<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/livepension.pdf>

VA can pay special monthly pension additional allowances, when a Veteran or surviving spouse need regular assistance with activities of daily living, or when they are confined to their immediate premises because of disabilities i.e., an Aid and Attendance or Housebound allowance. See the enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit <http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/EnhancedorSpecialPension.pdf>

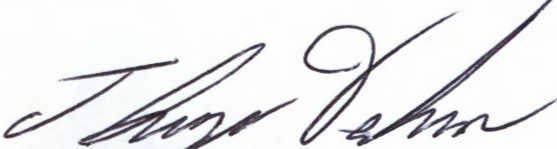
VA will work with local service providers to ensure interested tribes receive the information listed above, and more general information, via:

1. **Claims and health fairs** -- These on-site events may include: accepting claims; checking the status of claims; processing specific types of claims (identified beforehand); health eligibility screening; health benefits enrollment; blood pressure checks; and other medical screenings.
2. **Teleconferences** -- The services offered on site during claims fairs may be available through such technologies as video teleconferences, conference calls, Telehealth, etc. While access to such technology may be limited, where available it can still greatly assist with access to benefits for Veterans and their Survivors living in Indian Country.

If your tribe is interested in participating in this focused outreach campaign, please reply to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. VA will consider all tribes that express interest, and it will consult tribal leadership as it plans and coordinates all outreach events.



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Thayer Verschoor
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Enclosures